

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAJ-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 EB-04

DRC-01 /054 W

----- 025222

O R 171649Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7517

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND D15

PASS TREASURY

REF: ROME 1411

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1. FANFANI'S MEETINGS YESTERDAY WITH DC PARTY AND PARLIAMENTARY DIRECTORATES CONCLUDED THE PRELIMINARY PHASE OF HIS SOUNDINGS, AND HE BEGINS TODAY FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR RECONSTITUTION OF THE FOUR-PARTY COALITION. MEETINGS WITH THE PARTIES ARE QUOTE BILATERAL UNQUOTE FOR THE TIME BEING AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY QUOTE COLLEGIAL UNQUOTE SESSIONS, IF PROGRESS IS MADE. FANFANI'S LENGTHY REPORT TO HIS PARTY INCLUDED FIRM COMMITMENT TO TRY TO RE-ESTABLISH FOUR-PARTY COALITION. HE AND OTHER AUTHORITATIVE DC SPOKESMEN ARE AVOIDING ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES.

2. THE AMBASSADOR LAST EVENING IN TALKING TO TWO DC LEADERS AT A PRIVATE DINNER GOT THE DEFINITE INDICATION THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECONSTITUTE THE CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT IF ANYBODY COULD DO IT FANFANI WOULD DO IT. AND IT WAS THEIR EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD DO IT BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

3. OTHER DC SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY ARE PESSIMISTIC CENTER-LEFT CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED, AND ARE PREDICTING A ONE-PARTY DC GOVERNMENT (WITH PSI PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT) AS A FIRST FALL BACK POSITION, INCONCLUSIVE PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING YESTERDAY CONFIRMS THAT PSI BADLY SPLIT BY STRONG MINORITY OPPOSITION TO MAKING COMPROMISES NECESSARY TO RE-ENTER COALITION. MINORITY SPOKESMEN YESTERDAY INDICATED IN PUBLIC SPEECHES THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A ONE-PARTY DC (MONOCOLORE) GOVERNMENT EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED BY THE PSI ON ISSUES THE PSI AGREED WITH. THE PRICE FOR THIS SUPPORT WOULD BE AVOIDANCE OF EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED NEXT SPRING. (DIRECTORATE WILL RESUME DELIBERATIONS TODAY AFTER PSI DELEGATION'S FIRST MEETING WITH FANFANI.)

4. NEED TO AVOID EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND ALLOW NEXT SPRING'S REGIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AS SCHEDULED IS ALSO THE BASIC POSITION OF PCI. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS ARE MAINTAINING A CAUTIOUS STANCE AND SAYING NOTHING WHICH WOULD MAKE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER-LEFT ANY MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT IS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM CAUTIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC  
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PROCEDURE FANFANI IS EMPLOYING THAT, IF CENTER-LEFT IS INDEED READY FOR BURIAL, AND WE CAN'T BE SURE THAT IT IS, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCUSE HIM OF A LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED EFFORT TO REVIVE IT. A THREE-PARTY ALTERNATIVE EXCLUDING PSI, AS SPECULATED UPON IN THE PRESS, IS NOW LESS LIKELY THAN DC MONOCLORE BECAUSE OF PSI PREFERENCE FOR THE LATTER. HOWEVER, A DC MONOCOLORE IS THE LEAST PALATABLE SOLUTION TO PSDI. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IF THE MONOCOLORE WERE ONLY VIABLE WITH

SUPPORT FROM THE LEFT. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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